

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SECTY SCHAUFLE ONLY

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: REVISED TALKING POINTS

1. FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN YOUR TALKING POINTS FOR SMITH:

A. CHANGE LAST POINT ON FIRST PAGE TO READ AS FOLLOWS AFTER FIRST SENTENCE: "WE WILL TRY TO BE AS SUPPORTIVE AS POSSIBLE, BUT YOU MUST APPRECIATE THAT THERE ARE REALISTIC LIMITS AS TO WHAT THE US CAN DO. IF THE CONFERENCE BREAKS UP THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE POLICY THAT WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE WHITES IN RHODESIA. WE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN TERMS OF US DOMESTIC POLITICS, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE US COULD SUPPORT THE PRESENT RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF A CONFERENCE BREAKDOWN."

B. ON PAGE 4, DELETE ENTIRELY THE POINT REFERRING TO

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A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN TRANSMITTING THE FIVE POINTS.

2. ON FIRST PAGE OF YOUR TALKING POINTS FOR RICHARD, DELETE THE THIRD POINT ABOUT "COMPLICATED MANEUVERINGS" AND SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING: "YOUR SOLUTION OF MUGABE-

NKOMO PROBLEM THURSDAY WAS THE KIND OF HANDLING THAT KEEPS DELEGATES FOCUSSED ON REAL PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WITHOUT CONCEDING ANYTHING."

3. YOUR TALKING POINTS FOR THE NATIONALISTS SHOULD BE A BIT TOUGHER, BUT NOT THREATENING. WE SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE PLEADING WITH THEM. MAKE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

A. DELETE "WISHES TO BE HELPFUL" IN FIRST SENTENCE OF FIRST POINT AND SUBSTITUTE "WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT."

B. DELETE LAST TWO SENTENCES OF LAST POINT ON PAGE 2 AND SUBSTITUTE: "SUGGESTIONS WHICH SOME DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE THAT THE US IS INVOLVED ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS OWN INTERESTS ARE NEITHER HELPFUL NOR RELEVANT. OF COURSE WE HAVE INTERESTS, A MAJOR ONE OF WHICH IS TO GUARD AGAINST THE THREAT OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT IN AFRICA. WE BELIEVE THESE INTERESTS ARE NOT ONLY COMPATIBLE BUT SUPPORTIVE OF YOUR INTERESTS. YOUR PRESENCE HERE WOULD INDICATE THAT WE ARE AGREED ON OBJECTIVES."

C. RETAIN FIRST TWO SENTENCES ON TOP OF PAGE 3 AS SEPARATE POINT AND ADD: "IF THE CONFERENCE BREAKS DOWN, HOWEVER, THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE LONG AND GRIM, AND YOU WILL BE INCREASINGLY ON YOUR OWN AS THERE WILL BE NOTHING THE US CAN DO TO RECREATE A NEGOTIATING OPPORTUNITY LIKE THE PRESENT ONE."

D. ADD NEW POINT: "IN THIS CONNECTION, LOGIC SUGGESTS THAT THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD HOLD SPECIFIC MINISTERIAL POSTS SHOULD BE SUBORDINATED TO YOUR MORE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE."

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4. IN YOUR TALKS WITH NKOMO AND MUZOREWA YOU SHOULD SUPPLEMENT POINT 3.B. ABOVE AS FOLLOWS: "WHILE WE APPRECIATE YOUR NEED TO CRITICIZE US TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, YOU SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE THAT IF THE GENEVA TALKS FAIL, NOT ONLY WILL THERE BE NO FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BUT EVENTS COULD DISINTEGRATE INTO ANOTHER ANGOLA. YOU MUST SURELY REALIZE THAT THIS IS

THE LAST CHANCE YOU CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS WILL HAVE
TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA OR A
FUTURE ZIMBABWE." KISSINGER

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